

\$441 million annually for the federal government.

Savings to Medicare also occur by reducing the need for in-home and nursing home care. By providing the skills and services to those with vision impairment, Medicare promotes quality of life and independence for the individual. I know first-hand, the cost factors and emotional strain related to the loss of independence and need for additional health care services due to vision impairment. My mother, who suffers from vision impairment, benefited tremendously from the rehabilitation services provided by the Greater Boston Aid to the Blind.

Studies by the National Center for Health Statistics and others find age-related visual impairment to be second only to arthritis/rheumatism as a cause of disability. In addition, the Alliance for Aging Research found visual impairment as one of four conditions leading older citizens to lose their independence. Medicare must provide its beneficiaries with the ability to live a normal life. Please join me and nearly 80 other cosponsors in this effort by including vision rehabilitation professionals in Medicare reform legislation.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4690) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member OBEY, Subcommittee Chairman REGULA, Ranking Member SERRANO, and the other Members of the Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Appropriations Subcommittee and Appropriations Committee for their obvious hard efforts in producing H.R. 4690. I have strong reservations about the funding cuts that the bill imposes on the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. The bill funds NOAA at a level 61 percent below the Administration's request and could result in the elimination of 1,000 NOAA jobs. If this happens, it will have a devastating effect on the critical research, fisheries management, water quality, and community-based educational programs which are absolutely necessary to our country's vitality and continued strength.

Mr. Chairman, this country is witnessing the largest federal government surplus in history. I believe that part of this money should be returned to the American people. I believe that we should be investing part of the surplus in America's future. NOAA plays an essential role in the lives of all Americans. From issuing weather forecasts to managing our nation's ocean and living marine resources, NOAA contributes significantly to the nation's economic and environmental health. Nearly one

out of every six jobs is marine-related and one-third of our Gross Domestic Product is produced in ocean and coastal areas.

I am particularly upset that the Committee has chosen to cut all funding, \$16 million requested by the Administration, for coral reef research and conservation efforts. Coral reefs truly are the "rainforests of the oceans." There have been many concerted efforts by the Administration, Congress, states, and local communities to protect and safely manage corals. Since the release by the Coral Reef Task Force of its National Action Plan in March, NOAA and its Federal, state, territorial, and local partners have moved forward to improve our protection of these valuable and fragile areas. I am presently involved in bipartisan legislation that will contribute to the effective stewardship of coral reefs. NOAA is an important partner in the process, since many corals fall within its purview. All of the efforts supported by NOAA will be terminated at the proposed funding level, and threaten to harm the ecological and economic stability in our nation's waters where corals reside.

Mr. Chairman, some may ask whether we can afford, or even need, all the services that NOAA provides. However, at a time when there is an even greater need for accurate weather information to protect the lives of our people and the well-being of our agricultural communities, at a time when our fisheries are at risk, at a time when development is booming in coastal communities, and at a time when we have the additional financial resources, I ask, how can we afford not to provide the Administration's request for NOAA, which has the capability to provide the expertise which is so vitally important to the continued stewardship of our marine resources? NOAA has been a valuable federal partner in contributing to our nation's economic potency by providing the knowledge required for effective stewardship of our coastal resources. Investing in NOAA will ensure we can continue to safely conserve our coastal and oceanic resources for generations to come. I sincerely hope that these concerns will receive consideration when the House goes to conference with the Senate on H.R. 4690.

LEHIGH VALLEY HERO JOHN
FINNEGAN, JR.

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. John Finnegan, Jr. Mr. Finnegan, who only moved to the Lehigh Valley four years ago, has displayed an extraordinary dedication to the people of his community. The Director of Consulting Services at Dun and Bradstreet, Mr. Finnegan serves as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Hanover Township, Northampton County. He has served as the chief fund-raiser for the township's bicentennial committee, and on its parks and recreation board. His hard work and diligence have made a tremendous difference in the life of his community.

In addition to his civic and corporate involvement, Mr. Finnegan's personal actions also serve as a model for others to follow. He

has been a coach for Little League baseball and hockey leagues, serving as a role model and mentor to the youth of the Lehigh Valley. Coordinator for his neighborhood crime watch, Mr. Finnegan has become an invaluable resource to the constituents of my district in the short time he has lived there. I applaud Mr. Finnegan for his devotion to the Lehigh Valley community. John Finnegan is a Lehigh Valley Hero.

HONORING WILLIAM G. TERRELL—
NEW JERSEY UAW CAP DIRECTOR

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to honor a man who has spent the last 35 years of his life representing the interests of working men and women in the State of New Jersey.

William G. Terrell, Friday, retires as UAW International Representative Community Action Programs (CAP) Director for the State of New Jersey.

For the last several decades, Bill Terrell has spent a majority of his time improving the quality of life for thousands of workers in the State of New Jersey. Throughout his career in organized labor, Mr. Terrell has held numerous positions within the UAW, culminating with his current position as CAP Director since 1985.

Bill Terrell has been a tireless advocate on behalf of autoworkers throughout the State of New Jersey, as well as the nation as a whole. He has played an active role in UAW contract negotiations, workplace safety and ensuring New Jersey's automobile plants continue production in our State. He is a constant supporter of organized labor and works extremely hard to ensure that all workers have a voice.

With Bill Terrell's retirement, the NJ UAW is losing a worker, a family man, and a leader. I want to offer Mr. Terrell my congratulations and thanks for his outstanding career of service. It is with men like Bill Terrell that our nation's labor movement is such a huge success. He will be sorely missed.

THE HISTORIC SUMMIT OF THE
TWO KOREAS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate South Korean President Kim Dae-jung in the aftermath of the historic summit. This is an historic moment and holds a glimmer of promise for the Korean people and for peace and stability in Northeast Asia. This is a watershed event in the history of Korea and will hopefully lead to a significant reduction in tensions on the peninsula.

According to media coverage, the summit has already produced potentially significant results. The two leaders reportedly have reached an understanding in the following four areas:

Social and economic cooperation, including South Korean investment in North Korea;

The easing tensions between the two Koreas;

Steps toward the reunification of families; and

The eventual reunification of the peninsula.

I look forward, as we all should, to viewing the details that accompany these understandings with real hope that the two Koreas are on a path toward true and lasting peace. While this summit is only a first step, I am pleased and encouraged by its apparent success. I urge the leaders of North and South Korea to remain committed to this historic process that they have initiated.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me close by quoting from President Kim's airport speech in Seoul. Before he boarded the plane for Pyongyang, he said:

I want to embark on the trip with a heart burning with love for our people and a calm attitude so that I can look straight at reality. I hope that it will be a turning point in efforts to remove threats to war and terminate the Cold War . . . so that 70 million Korean people in the north and south can live in peace.

Mr. Speaker, we hope that President Kim is correct and I invite my colleagues to join in wishing him success in this important endeavor.

RECOGNIZING WORLD IMPACT, INC.

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fresno Chapter of World Impact, Inc. for their effect on the Fresno Community.

World Impact is a nationwide, interdenominational, Christian discipling and church-planting ministry dedicated to ministering God's love in the inner cities of America. The organization nurtures urban disciples who will join in teaching others the gospel. World Impact, Inc. also develops indigenous disciples of Christ in the inner city through ministry to children, teenagers and adults who are committed to Christ and to making Him known to others.

Currently, the Fresno Chapter shares the gospel of Jesus Christ in five ministry areas in Fresno, California. They minister to about 250 children and 40 teenagers weekly from these areas and also hold Bible studies for adults. In addition to their five ministry areas, they also have a community center, which includes a gymnasium, recreation rooms, a kitchen, offices, and classrooms. The community center offers Bible classes year round, as well as other community activities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the Fresno chapter of World Impact, Inc. for their contributions to the community, and I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the organization many more years of continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GAIL NAUGHTON, PH.D., INVENTOR OF THE YEAR

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate my constituent, Gail Naughton. Today, the Intellectual Property Owner's Association will name Dr. Naughton Inventor of the Year. As the first individual woman to win this award, Dr. Naughton is being honored for the process she invented to produce human tissues and organs outside the human body.

Traditionally, growing cells in a laboratory consisted of placing cells on a flat surface with a growth medium. In this process, cells behaved differently than their natural counterparts. Dr. Naughton's invention utilizes stroma cells, which are the cells that form the surrounding matrix of the tissue. Using a three-dimensional scaffolding, which is placed in a specially designed "bioreactor", Dr. Naughton was able to simulate the body making it possible for cells to form a tissue matrix that was virtually undistinguishable from those found in nature. Dr. Naughton's pioneering work in tissue engineering has defined a new industry dedicated to helping the millions of people who suffer tissue loss or end-stage organ failure. In addition, cartilage, heart tissue and other organs can be bioengineered with this unique human-based technology, which has the potential of addressing the significant shortage of world wide donor organs.

Dr. Naughton is the co-founder and President and Chief Operating Officer of Advanced Tissue Sciences, Inc. in La Jolla, California where she has developed product technology to help patients and to respond to the growing need for transplant tissues and organs. A mother of three, she received her MS in histology in 1978 and Ph.D. in 1981, both from NYU. She has been published extensively in the field of tissue engineering and is the holder of 26 U.S. patents. Through the Advanced Tissue Sciences, Dr. Naughton has produced various therapeutic products such as Transcyte™, which is used to treat second and third degree burns, and Dermagraft®, which is used for the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers. These products represent advancements in bioengineering, manufacturing, and cytopreservation in an emerging industry.

Dr. Naughton is also on the advisory boards of the Department of Bioengineering at Johns Hopkins University and Georgia Institute of Technology, and is a member of the industrial liaison board at the University of California, San Diego, the Georgia Institute of Technology, MIT, and the University of Washington. She is also a member of the board of Directors of Scripps Bank in La Jolla, California, the San Diego Burn Institute and the Charles H. and Anna S. Stern Foundation. In 1999, she received a "Woman Who Mean Business" award from the San Diego Business Journal.

Gail Naughton deserves our congratulations for this tremendous achievement. I know that she is proud of her accomplishments, and I am proud to have her as my constituent.

SEVERE SHORTAGE OF APPROVED ANIMAL DRUGS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to bring attention to a problem faced by livestock and food animal producers, animal and pet owners, zoo and wildlife biologists, and the animals themselves, which unfortunately goes largely unnoticed except by those who are directly affected.

There currently exists a severe shortage of approved animal drugs for use in minor animal species. These minor animal species include animals other than cattle, horses, chickens, turkeys, dogs, and cats. In addition, there also exists a similar shortage of drugs and medicines for major animal species for diseases that occur infrequently or which occur in limited geographic areas. Due to the lack of availability of these minor use drugs, millions of animals go either untreated or treatment is delayed. This results not only in unnecessary animal physical and human emotional suffering but may threaten human health as well.

Because of limited market opportunity, low profit margins involved, and enormous capital investment required, it is generally not economically feasible for drug manufacturers to pursue research and development and then approval for drugs used in treating minor species and infrequent conditions and diseases.

In addition to the animals themselves, without access to these necessary minor use drugs, farmers and ranchers also suffer. An unhealthy animal that is left untreated can spread disease throughout an entire stock of its fellow specie causing severe economic hardship to struggling ranchers and farmers.

For example, Mr. Speaker, sheep ranchers lost nearly \$45 million worth of livestock alone in 1999. The sheep industry estimates that if it had access to effective and necessary drugs, growers' reproduction costs for their animals would be cut by up to 15%. In addition, feedlot deaths would be reduced to 1–2% adding approximately \$8 million of revenue to the industry.

The catfish industry, a top agriculture industry in my home state of Mississippi generating enormous economic opportunity in the State, especially in the impoverished Mississippi Delta, estimates its losses at \$60 million per year attributable to diseases for which drugs are not available. The U.S. aquaculture industry overall, including food as well as ornamental fish, produces and raises over 800 different species. Unfortunately, this industry has only 5 drugs approved for use in treating aquaculture diseases resulting in tremendous economic hardship and animal suffering.

Mr. Speaker, joined with my colleagues Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. COMBEST of Texas, Mr. STENHOLM of Texas, and Mr. POMBO of California, I resolve to correct this unfortunate situation by introducing the Minor Animal Species Health and Welfare Act of 2000. This legislation will allow pharmaceutical companies the opportunity to develop and approve minor use drugs which are vitally needed by a plethora of animal industries. Our legislation incorporates the major proposals of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine to increase the availability of drugs for minor animal species